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PROGRAM 60 Minutes

STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE March 2, 1980 7:00 PM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT CIA's Role in Forming SAVAK

MIKE WALLACE: Today is the 120th day the American hostages have been held captive in Teheran, and today marks the end of the first week of the U.N. tribunal's investigation into the alleged crimes of the deposed Shah. They have been asked also to investigate Iranian charges of U.S. complicity in those acts.

Why do so many Iranians believe in U.S. complicity, guilt? Why do they so fervently endorse the anti-American Khomeini and the holding of the hostages?

Of course, we know the embassy takeover was triggered by the Shah's entry into the U.S. last October for medical treatment. More about that later. But beyond that, the fury in Iran focuses on the undenied fact that the CIA restored the exiled Shah to the Peacock Throne back in 1953. And after that, the Iranians have been told, the CIA helped the Shah set up SAVAK, the secret police force that has tortured so many thousands of them.

A classified Senate Foreign Relations Committee report confirms the CIA's role in forming SAVAK. It says the CIA provided the Shah money, as well as training, for that purpose. Of course, the brutality came later.

In 1976, in Niabran (?) Palace in Teheran, I asked the Shah about the continuing reports of torture inflicted by his SAVAK upon so many of his citizens.

Now, when an outfit like the International Commission of Jurists comes here and then comes out with a report saying that in spite of what you say, Your Majesty, torture continues...

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